

#3/A
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Rule 53(b) Continuation of:

U.S. Patent Appl. S.N. 08/917,341 (8/26/97)

Applicant: James F. CHEN *et al.*

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: J. Palys

Group Art Unit: 2785

For: MULTI-ACCESS VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE EXAMINATION

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the continuation application filed concurrently herewith under 37 CFR 1.53(b), kindly amend the application in accordance with the following particulars:

IN THE SPECIFICATION (35 U.S.C §120 Priority Statement):

Page 1, line 3, after the title and before the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", insert the following sentence:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/917,341, filed August 26, 1997, ^{now U.S. Pat No. 6,061,796} ~~pending~~.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-4, 7-17, 20-22, 24-30, and 32-34, without prejudice or disclaimer.

40